Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 4594 ACTION SECSTATE INFO TEL AVIV USUN NEW YORK 09 JUN 77

QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL GENEVA 4594

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: ILO, PLAB, XF

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE: ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE

REF: GENEVA 4561

1. INFORMAL TALKS WENT ON DURING JUNE 8 TO CONSIDER DRAFT LETTER WHICH DIRECTOR GENERAL (DG) PROPOSES TO SEND TO PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFRENCE (ILC). TUNISIAN LABOR MINISTER ENNACEUR ("ON BEHALF OF ARAB GROUP") REQUESTED AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS, ALTHOUGH DG INFORMED USREP HOROWITZ THAT LATE IN DAY TALKS SEEMED TO BE GOING BETTER. DG INDICATED TO ARABS THAT LETTER WAS HIS OWN AND ARABS (OR FOR THAT MATTER US) NOT BEING ASKED TO ENDORSE IT, AND THAT HE PALNNED TO GO AHEAD WITH SENDING IT TO ILC PRESIDENT. AFTER HE MADE CONFIDENTIAL

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SOME CHANGES IN RESPONSE TO ARAB SUGGESTIONS, HE HAD IMPRESSION THEIR POSITION WAS BECOMING AMBIGUOUS RATHER THAN AS "TOUGH" AS THEY HAD BEEN EARLIER IN DAY. WE WILL SEND LATTER "FINAL" TEXT SEPTEL; TEXT OF ITS PRECESSOR IS OBSOLETE AND HAS BEEN POUCHED.

2. DG SAW TRIPARTITE USDEL IN EARLY EVENING

AND DESCRIBED CHANGES, WHICH WERE GENERALLY NOT OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE WITH ONE EXCEPTION THIS FOCUSSED AROUND SENTENCES IN WHICH HE DESCRIBED HIS STATUTORY OBLIGA-TION TO REPORT TO ILC EACH YEAR ON STATUS OF RESOLUTIONS PASSED IN PREVIOUS FIVE YEAR PERIOD. HE HAD PROPOSED WORDING ALONG THESE LINES: "IN THIS CONNECTION I WILL OF COURSE REPORT ON STEPS TAKEN TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED IN 1974" (TEXT POUCHED). TRIPARTITE USDEL POINTED OUT OUR OBJECTION TO ANY WORDING WHICH IMPLIED DG WOULD BE TAKING ACTION ON 1974 RESOLUTION, AND DG INDICATED HE WOULD CONSIDER OUR POSITION. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR PHONED USREP MORNING OF JUNE 9 TO SAY HE ALSO HAD OBJECTED TO THIS WORDING. DG CHANGED WORDING TO SAY "SUCH A REPORT WILL COVER THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED IN 1974..." (SEE REFTEL). ACCORDING TO CHEF DU CABINET BERNARD FORTIN, DG SIGNED THE LETTER MORNING OF JUNE 9, ON REASONING HE COULD GO NO FURTHER, AND SENT LETTER TO PRESIDENT OF ILC TO ARABS AND OTHER REGIONAL GOVERNMENT GROUPS AND TO WORKER AND EMPLOYER GROUPS. ILC PRESIDENT NOW HAS BEFORE HIM DG'S LETTER AND ARAB RESOLUTION. IF ARABS ACCEPT FORMER AND WITH-DRAW LATTER AND OTHER GROUPS GO ALONG, DG'S LETTER COULD BE INTRODUCED INTO PLENARY AFTERNOON OF JUNE 9. SCENARIO WOULD BE THAT ONE OR MORE ARAB SPEAKERS COMMENT ON LETTER, AND THEN ISSUE WOULD BE DROPPED.

3. WE UNDERSTAND ARAB REACTION TO FINAL TEXT OF DG'S LETTER WAS STRONG AND THEY ARE NOW MEETING WITH DG AND ILC PRESIDENT TO PRESENT THEIR VIEWS. THUS OUTCONFIDENTIAL.

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COME OF DG'S INITIATIVE IS FAR FROM CERTAIN. ILC PRESIDENT'S CONSULTATIONS WITH REGIONAL GOVERNMENT GROUP REPS HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO 1445 HOURS JUNE 9.

4. COMMENT: MODERATE ARABS TRYING HARD TO RESOLVE SITUATION TO AVOID CONFRONTATION BUT HAVE INDICATED THEY ARE UNDER SOME PRESSURE FROM RADICALS AND THAT THEY MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO PLAY MODERATING ROLE MUCH LONGER. JORDANIAN CROWN PRINCE HAS INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO INCORPORATE INTO HIS SPEECH TO PLENARY JUNE 10 ANY REMARKS WHICH WE BELIEVE WOULD BE HELPFUL. USREP WILL SUGGEST (AT 5 P.M. JUNE 9 MEETING) THAT PRINCE REFER TO IMPORTANCE OF FOLLOWING PROCEDURE OBJECTIVES, AND PRIORITIES OF ILO. SORENSON UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER.

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	Margaret P. Grafeld	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	22 May 2009
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